



Mistissini Rejects Uranium The Cree People of Mistissini Speak Up

Josephine Diamond

A Woman to Remember - April 4, 1924 – May 14, 2011



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*Happy Aboriginal Day
from the Nation team*

photo by Niels Jensen from Eeyou Istchee, Land of the Cree



Mistissini protest photos by Theresa MacLeod

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Uranium or bust

By Sonny Orr



After listening to the talk shows and long discussions on the issue of uranium mining in Eeyou Istchee, I wondered if anyone really did any background check on the uses of uranium. What I discovered is rather interesting. Named after the planet Uranus, which was discovered barely eight years earlier in 1781, the metal became somewhat useful for colouring glass. Imagine all the cups that were used with uranium dust in the clay mixture, no wonder just about everyone got more than they bargained for while drinking out of fancy yellow teacups. Yep, no wonder the world changed ever so slightly and humankind must have had some sort of biological mutation that made us smarter in a technological way.

Soon after poking and prodding some use out of the slightly magnetic material, it was soon used for its vast energy potential. Imagine, nuclear generators which would turn one kilo of uranium into the equivalent of a 100,000 kilos of coal. Now, if that isn't a bargain material to use for energy, what is?

Another use, which is entirely medical in nature, is the use of isotopes liquidate enough to inject into the human blood system, so that when scanned using the latest equipment known to doctors, every facet of your blood shows up, allowing for a detailed picture of your vascular network. This enables doctors to detect that nasty haemorrhoid cluster or that clot in your system that's daring your body to go into cardiac arrest. It will also help with your brain, as when you happen to get a good idea, your head lights up like a light bulb.

Of course, everyone likes to point out the potential for military use, from making heavy bullets that can penetrate through any armoured vehicle, like a tank, or right up to everyone's favourite

weapon, the nuclear warhead. Even terrorists, who need massive weapons of destruction, would like to have at least one nuclear weapon in their armoury. But, you need to be a real egghead to be able to make one actual work, so they resort to just blowing up the warhead and spreading radioactive waste around instead. This leads to a long life (as compared to the split second of a hydrogen bomb going off and incinerating everything and everyone in its blast path). But after a while, when your teeth and hair fall out, you realize that you are indeed a victim of radioactive warfare.

Now, why do we need to be so concerned about uranium mining? Does the medical usage outweigh the military use? Does it save more than it kills? You be the judge of that. But one thing is certain, if war was waged using nuclear weapons at the same rate as the medical profession uses it, I'm pretty sure we wouldn't be around to argue this one point.

As far as energy goes, the trade-offs are probably not as bad as everyone seems to think. Maybe one day, uranium will be used by everyone who doesn't have a vast underground oil patch to tap into. Using oil to pollute the world with more emissions than an old V8 truck without a muffler maybe safer for the human, but it seems to throw the world into disarray and tips the economic benefits to those wearing either a turban or cowboy hat.

Perhaps, the world will be a better place if uranium could be used for peaceful purposes. Just think of dynamite, which was actually created to stop wars by making all other weapons useless and world peace a reality. But some dreams just turn into nightmares when in the hands of the wrong people.

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No glow!

Mistissini rejects uranium mining

By Will Nicholls

You could hear a pin drop when Mistissini Chief Richard Shecapio took the podium on June 5. He was there to tell the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission what the Mistissini Band Council, the Cree Nation of Mistissini and the Cree people of Mistissini decided, not only for Strateco's exploration plans, but for all uranium exploration and mining in the Mistissini territory.

"I will be clear and I will be firm. There will be no uranium exploration on our traditional land," said Shecapio, adding, "I can assure the people of Mistissini that I will do whatever it takes to protect our land and our rights."

Shecapio said this decision was reached after listening to Mistissini Cree people. He welcomed the fact there was a packed auditorium and thank everyone

sacred place for the Cree. To protect the water we drink we need to be very careful about the kind of development we are willing to allow in these mountains."

The second concern raised was the 20-plus active uranium exploration projects in that region. They surround the park and many think if the Strateco license is granted it will open the door for the rest of projects in the future. Shecapio said it would negatively affect eco-tourism plans that would bring much needed money and jobs into the community. Some were concerned Eeyou Istchee would become a dump site for spent nuclear waste in the future. Local resident Luke MacLeod said for people in southern Quebec it would be "out of sight, out of mine".

"I WILL BE CLEAR AND I WILL BE FIRM. THERE WILL BE NO URANIUM EXPLORATION ON OUR TRADITIONAL LAND."

for coming as well as those who participated or would do so at the hearing. "These people are the reason we are here tonight. As a First Nation collectively, they are the guardians of the land and of our distinct identity," said Shecapio. He thanked the tallymen for their input in coming to Mistissini's decision.

Shecapio said, "Community members have expressed a great deal of concern about the location of Strateco's project, for two main reasons. First, the project is located in the Otish Mountain drainage basin and, second, it is in close proximity to the Alanel-Témiscamie-Otish (ATO) Park.

"The Otish Mountain drainage basin runs all the way to James Bay passing through Lake Abenal and Mistissini Lake before going into the Rupert's River. The Otish Mountains are the source of the water that supports our people; it is a

Shecapio pointed out Mistissini wasn't against mineral exploration and mining. "We have recently signed an IBA with a mining company and have had a positive long-term partnership with another mining company in the past. The Cree Nation of Mistissini, however, does not believe that uranium development is an activity that is consistent with our role as responsible stewards of this land," he said.

Shecapio added that in November 2010 the Cree Nation of Mistissini didn't support the project, and again in 2011 and nothing has changed. "The Cree have already sacrificed a great deal for a source of clean and abundant renewable energy in hydroelectricity," said Shecapio.

The Grand Council of the Crees has thrown their support behind the community and will be seeking a moratorium on uranium development in the territo-



Mistissini Chief Richard Shecapio

ry. Shecapio said Mistissini joins the over 350 municipalities across Quebec who have called for a ban on uranium mining.

The CNSC staff have recommended that the license be issued for a period of five years.

Shecapio and the Mistissini community may have different ideas though. Shecapio's presentation ended with, "Finally, I am here today to serve notice that the Cree Nation of Mistissini will do whatever it takes to stop uranium development on our traditional lands. Let it be clear: there will be no uranium exploration on our land."

Interest in Mistissini's stance on uranium mining was strong throughout all of Eeyou Istchee. Chisasibi even postponed in radio bingo so community members could hear the nationwide radio broadcast on the Cree Regional Radio.

Many people, not only local residents, gave presentations on this issue to the CNSC. In the next issue of the Nation we will present as many as we can. If you have a comment you can go to nationnews.ca and click on "Talk To Us".



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Playing it cool

A looming deficit declaration is no cause for panic at Cree Construction

By Amy German

With 35 years of business experience and a lengthy list of successes under their belt that no other First Nations company in Quebec can rival, for the Cree Construction and Development Company (CCDC), declaring a deficit for this past fiscal year may be a serious matter but is no reason to break out into a sweat.

While CCDC President William MacLeod admits the subject isn't the easiest topic for discussion, he felt it was wiser to approach the Nation to explain why this was happening with the entity and also why it isn't cause for alarm. For that matter, as he explained, it is a very normal part of the construction business.

Simply put, the numbers that are currently being crunched and are about to be reported are merely temporary. Within the next few weeks MacLeod is anticipating that while the company actually did about \$95 million in managing contracts last year, they probably will be declaring an \$8 million deficit stemming from outstanding claims on two projects.

"For this particular year, we are looking at around eight million in deficit, but



particular projects that have brought about this current challenge – a school project in Chisasibi and a water-and-sewer job in northern Manitoba.

As MacLeod explained, within the construction industry there is a normal process known as a claims process and this is applied where there are unforeseen circumstances, such as soil condition or design changes or any other issue that could make for a cost overrun.

While the company usually will try to make an agreement with the client dur-

ing a project and what the impact was to the schedule or the actual budget," explained MacLeod.

In the case of the Chisasibi school project, CCDC encountered some design changes, which created financial impacts that increased the cost of construction. This in turn spilled over to affect wages, supplies and schedule.

In the case of the water-and-sewer job in Manitoba, due to the largest rainfall ever recorded in that province, flood damage resulted in a loss of productivity from farmers to cottage owners to construction companies.

While CCDC has currently entered into the claims process for both of these projects because you can never record claims as a source of revenue until after a settlement, the \$8 million remains part of the 2011-2012 numbers.

"Hopefully we can resolve these claims within this fiscal year 2012-13. Then we can report it as revenue and it actually goes right down to the bottom line. And it goes back to that particular contract, like the school project, that is where the claim will be with the settlement as that is where the deficit will show. With the school, we lost x amount of dollars and when we resolve the claim it goes back up," said MacLeod.

"HOPEFULLY WE CAN RESOLVE THESE CLAIMS WITHIN THIS FISCAL YEAR 2012-13. THEN WE CAN REPORT IT AS REVENUE AND IT ACTUALLY GOES RIGHT DOWN TO THE BOTTOM LINE."

the real figure won't come out for a few more days.

"There are some additions that we have to look at. I mean there are some change orders from revenues that need to be confirmed and when those particular figures come in then it will lower our actual deficit. However, we definitely will be going into a deficit," said MacLeod.

While CCDC did a wide range of contracts last year, there were two par-

ing a project and when this happens it is called a change order. With a change order both parties agree on the price of a particular change in the plans or it could be additional work that is requested.

"That is how you usually change the work, but in some cases, it doesn't work like that. Instead of a change order you go into a claims process and claims have to be put down. The construction company has to put down exactly what the issue is or what happened with that par-



Cree Nation of Washaw Sibi Golf Classic 2012

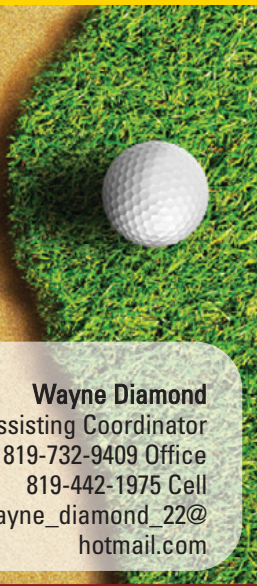


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Stornoway moves to Montreal

"It's a big deal when a company moves its head office," said Matt Manson, President and CEO of Stornoway Diamonds. "It's a statement that we're making."

Manson, along with Vice-President Patrick Godin, announced June 1 that Stornoway would be moving its head office from northern B.C. to the Montreal area. Manson explained that the move reflects the importance of the Stornoway-owned Renard Diamond Project in the Otish Mountains.

"Renard is a big deal," said Manson. "It's \$800 million of capital investment, it's 450-500 jobs. We see Renard as a project that's going to be mining diamonds successfully for many years. Montreal has the expertise, the engineering talents, the logistics, [and] the investment base."

According to Godin, the head office will employ 40 to 50 people. Aside from pledging to hire a high proportion of its Renard workforce from Quebec's Cree and Jamesien communities, Godin expressed the company's desire to involve those communities on the management side as well.

"It's our wish," said Godin. "We'll have specific training for people who want to be promoted, and we'll have a promotion plan, developed with the Cree, to raise them as much as we can within our operation."

Wind claims the life of Eastmain man

Youdon Polson, a man in his 20s, was found dead on May 29 on the shores of the Eastmain River. Polson and two friends –

Bruce Gilpin and Jerry Williams – went out hunting around 5:00 am.

They ran into trouble as they were paddling their canoe. The winds were so strong that they caused the boat to capsize, leaving the three men in the river to find their way to shore.

While Gilpin and Williams were found on the shore shortly after, Polson remained missing. His body was found a few hours later, at around 10:00am that morning.

Polson's funeral service on June 2 was filled with members of his large family and people from the community, all there to mourn his untimely death. "His family is in complete shock," said Chief Edward Gilpin.

UNICEF chastises Canada over child poverty

This past May UNICEF once again published its annual report card comparing child poverty in 35 industrialized countries only to reveal that Canada could be doing so much more to protect its children.

"The face of poverty in Canada is a child's face," says UNICEF Canada's Executive Director David Morley and he called on Canada to make children a priority when planning budgets and spending the nation's resources despite tough economic times.

Looking at the numbers more specifically, the report showed how Canada's child poverty rate is actually higher than the country's overall poverty rate.

An interesting fact to come out of this report was that while there are around 30 million children in 35 industrialized countries growing up poor, child poverty is not inevitable in these countries but significantly affected by government policy.

UNICEF's recommendation for Canada: to better prioritize the country's children. The report suggested improving child benefits and tax credits and establishing a national poverty reduction strategy with a focus on children.

For more info: www.unicef.ca/irc10

Quebec Native Women suffers funding cut

The Conservative government announced on May 8 that they will be cutting funding for First Nations' health programs. The Quebec Native Women Inc (QNW) received a letter that funding will be cut altogether for their health programs because of a reorientation of federal policy under the 2012 Economic Action Plan.

This plan states that the funding once used for social and health programs will now be used for direct healthcare services. As a result, the QNW's HIV-AIDS coordinator position was eliminated due to the cuts. "The HIV-AIDS prevention and sexual education program was one of the most well-received and useful ones we had," said QNW president Michele Audette.

Audette went on to say that the program allowed women to get an education about sexuality without judgment from their peers. It allowed them to talk to someone about issues of sexuality that concerned them.

With the cutting of this position, thousands of women and men will suffer. Direct healthcare may not always be the answer to the questions that First Nations women and men ask about their sexuality. The QNW's holistic approach will be lost because of these cuts.



Leading the youth

Meet Joshua Iserhoff, Eeyou Istchee's new Youth Grand Chief

By Amy German

The youth have spoken and Joshua Iserhoff is their man! The former Youth Ambassador to the Cree Nation came out victorious from his first foray into political office and his cup runneth over with joy in his new position as Youth Grand Chief.

Just days after winning the election the Nation caught up with Iserhoff to find out what his life was like on the campaign trail and what will be high up on his agenda when it comes to addressing the needs of the youth.

First and foremost, if there is one thing that campaigning did for Iserhoff, it was deepen his bond with each individual community as he had the opportunity to connect in so many ways.

"I felt so much love and a real connection to the youth as well as the Elders. Every community was so different from the last and as I was travelling alone I was able to concentrate on each of the communities and what they had gone through. It was an overwhelming experience to be able to sit with the local people and learn so much about their individual community. My perspective is now so different and I feel that I have been awakened.

"I can liken it to a switch being turned on. I got to sit down with people and really hear their stories," said Iserhoff.

While his campaign promise to build a nation of leaders amongst the youth has

not changed, going from community to community Iserhoff was able to refine his vision for the youth of the Cree nation with every idea and hope that was shared with him by the people.

"In preparing myself for leadership, people gave me their expertise and they gave me their hearts, they gave me their

At the same time, speaking to the youth of Whapmagoostui was an equally intense experience for Iserhoff as it seemed as though the entire secondary school came out to seem him speak.

"For some kids, they were really happy that someone had come into their community to talk to them. And they

"I CAN LIKEN IT TO A SWITCH BEING TURNED ON. I GOT TO SIT DOWN WITH PEOPLE AND REALLY HEAR THEIR STORIES"

dreams and visions for the future of the youth. I felt like they dreamed with me and totally walked with me and my heart was incredibly overwhelmed with this experience," said Iserhoff.

After spending time in all nine communities Iserhoff emerged not only wanting to give his people his all, but wanting to include all of the people he could. In that respect he hopes to be able to work with the student councils within the schools of the Cree School Board.

Iserhoff saw that some of Cree communities had thriving student councils, while others – like Whapmagoostui – didn't have them. It is here he hopes to help the youth form councils to help develop future youth leaders.

were overwhelmed and so happy that they packed that complex. The teachers were incredibly surprised.

"While I did pray before it, I said Lord, I don't know what it is going to take to fill this complex as I didn't have any candies or an iPad to give away and so I just left it to a higher power to help me through my whole campaign and they all came.

"The thing was that it was at 3:45 pm, after school, and all of the students from Sec 1 to Sec 5 came out to listen to what I had to say. Many of them thanked me for coming and told me that they never see anybody here at all," said Iserhoff.

In terms of giving the youth a voice within the Cree nation, Iserhoff is planning to see if he and the Youth Deputy

Grand Chief can acquire greater power within the political structure.

Iserhoff wants to see the two positions move from being part of the Cree Regional Authority under the youth portfolio to becoming actual members of the Grand Council with voting power.

The new Youth Grand Chief believes this would be the best way to ensure that the youth of the Cree nation are taken seriously and that their concerns are best heard.

While this is not something that can happen overnight, from what he has been able to find out it may be possible to make this switch, but it would have to happen at the next Annual General Assembly of the Crees in August.

"If we can convince the Chiefs and the communities that we are going to be a thriving and powerful force for Eeyou Istchee, then I think the youth should be considered in all of the negotiations and be a part of the decision-making. And if I can be a voice for them then I think we can achieve another milestone in our legacy," said Iserhoff.

In the meantime, Iserhoff is looking at the more practical aspects of his new position, such as meeting with Grand Chief Matthew Coon Come to discuss his new role, finding a new office and just finding his bearings so that he can transition into the job as best as possible.

More so than anything, he can barely contain his excitement over being in this unique position.

When the Nation spoke to Iserhoff it was just before his first day on the job and already he seemed anxious to get started.

"Yesterday I was talking to a Cree helicopter pilot, who told me it had always been his dream to fly and get paid to do what he loves doing and that it is the most incredible feeling. I think this is going to be the same thing for me. I have always worked with young people and have enjoyed doing so. To be able to live and breathe this is just the greatest thing," said Iserhoff.

At the same time, having gone through such an incredible whirlwind experience Iserhoff was reflecting on all of the incredible individuals who stepped forward to help him in every community with his campaign. Iserhoff said he was



Joshua Iserhoff

never without assistance for anything he needed in each of the communities and he had wonderful volunteers. He wanted to publicly thank everyone who gave him their time and help.

Iserhoff also wanted to thank outgoing Youth Grand Chief Stacy Bear for her tireless work for the Youth of Eeyou Istchee as she was an inspiration and her efforts will never be forgotten.

Closest to his heart, he also thanked his parents and sister Fawn for their love and support, constant encouragement and prayers throughout the campaign and even mentioned his trusty dog Jojo and his "warrior bark".

In closing Iserhoff made this address to the people of the Cree nation:

"My intentions are to continue the legacy which our previous Youth Grand Chiefs, Youth Chiefs and Youth Council members have established. I believe that every leader is given a day, a moment to tell of his/her dream. I have no doubt that with the help of our Creator we will achieve to inspire, to lift, to motivate our youth to a purposeful, driver life.

"We need proactive and dedicated youth and particularly in an elected official. I will continue to build a strong youth organization where youth can come and voice their concerns and help them fulfill their calling. Each of us has a calling whether in politics, arts, sports... I aspire within the CNYC to achieve those goals."

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Beacon of light and culture

On the first anniversary of her death, Waskaganish mourns Josephine Diamond who left a deep impression in the hearts of people

By Pierre Coulombe



Josephine Diamond

April 4, 1924 – May 14, 2011

Daughter of the late Sarah McLeod

Wife of the late Bertie Diamond

Mother of Luke (Gertie Blueboy), Eddie (Monika Schoneich), Mary (Vance Bear), Jack (Doris Small), Sinclair (Wanda Whiskeychan), Richard and Bernard

Josephine with Sinclair and Jack with hands on his hips.

A majestic sun rises over the Rupert estuary and illuminates the long point stretching out of Waskaganish unto the vast James Bay horizon. Amidst the wide landscape, a tiny woman stands by her tent, along the riverbank, and reads the Bible – as she does every morning – before starting her daily chores. Soon, she will be cleaning

hides, cooking meat, attending to the needs of her children or preparing medicine to alleviate someone's pain. The quiet little woman, who works from sun-up to sundown, is radiant with an energy that is peaceful, serene and powerful. She has a beautiful smile and the penetrating eyes of a healer. This somewhat portrays Josephine Diamond at the

peak of her years while residing in Waskaganish, during high season. But so much more can be said.

Mary Diamond-Bear and her brother Sinclair Diamond were gracious to open the family albums and tell us a bit more about their mother's amazing story and how she managed to spend most of her life in the bush.



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EARLY DAYS

Josephine begins her life as the child of a single parent. Sarah McLeod, her mother, looks after her three girls (along with sisters Lily and Louise) with limited means through the early childhood years. Fortunately Sarah is able to rely on the support of her own mother, Gookum Mary Blackned, and her sisters, aunties Anna Hester, Helen Weistche and Minnie Hester. Everyone knows that it takes a community to raise a child. Together these women possess a wealth of knowledge in the Cree traditional way of life and Josephine partakes in it early on thanks to her rich extended family. She is often taken to the bush where she learns the skills.

In 1934, she starts attending residential school. Like so many Cree children who experience the painful separation with their parents, Josephine has to leave her mother and home at the tender age of 10 in order to meet with the educational requirements of the times. She spends two

years in Moose Factory (Ontario) and then three years in Fort George (Chisasibi). From ages 10 to 16, and during all this time, there are no visitations and Josephine can only return

THE '40s & '50s

Her marriage with Bertie Diamond helps her pursue a life in the bush. Along with her husband, she goes out on the land where they fish, hunt and trap together. When Bertie is involved with

"LIKE SO MANY CREE CHILDREN WHO EXPERIENCE THE PAINFUL SEPARATION WITH THEIR PARENTS, JOSEPHINE HAS TO LEAVE HER MOTHER AND HOME AT THE TENDER AGE OF 10 IN ORDER TO MEET WITH THE EDUCATIONAL REQUIREMENTS OF THE TIMES."

to her village for two months a year (July and August).

From age 16 until her wedding in 1942, Josephine is back in her village and taken under the wing of other families who help further her knowledge of the Cree way. Willie and Mary Moses, Maggie Cowboy and Ronnie Cowboy all play an important role in her life.

the Rupert River Brigade, she keeps busy by hunting for small game, setting rabbit snares and fish nets. She also works alongside Bertie during the Beaver Preserve Program.

In the 1960s, she accompanies Bertie, one of the Waskaganish Cree Trappers who participated in the Ministry of Natural Resources beaver



Cheryl Salt, receptionist, proudly shows a painting of Josephine Diamond by local artist Tim Whiskeychan - which has permanent residency in the local Court House in Waskaganish.



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trapping-out program in Ontario. From 1960 to 1985, they hunt and trap in various traplines on Michipicoten Island on Lake Superior, Gogama, Shining Tree, Hornepayne, Oba and Hearst. They also participate in the Northern Ontario Reforestation Program, and together they are involved in tree planting, pinecone picking and slashing.

Closer to home, Josephine and Bertie are known to hunt and trap in the La Sarre area, Matagami, Rupert and Nottaway rivers, as well as on two Waswanipi traplines. They leave late in August and return in June, every year. She and her husband portage for many years and bring with them whichever baby is in mother's care or has not started school. Josephine walks the children, she climbs rocks and stone-hops by rivers and streams, while Bertie is gathering supplies. Both are clever in the art of snowshoe making and, like their ancestors, they are able year-round travelers.

Although she is considered an intelligent and skilful woman, Josephine remains very humble. Her language skills and her knowledge of traditional medicine make her a useful helper and interpreter while visiting patients in the community with the Anglican minister. She also produces and provides traditional remedies. She uses alder for canker sores, ulcers and soar throat. Spruce gum, willow bark and balsam fir gum are used for other ailments. She also uses moose grease for burns, bear grease and castor glands for various other treatments. She also gives precious child rearing advice; she also shares her skills on cleaning hide and sewing. Josephine gathers knowledge and passes it on.

WOMAN OF FAITH

Josephine's demeanour through hardships is also inspiring and is worth a full biography on its own. Her mother dies in 1947 when she's only 23 – seven years after her return from residential schools and two years into her marriage. Her sister Lily, with whom she was very close, dies from tuberculosis in 1959. Josephine loses all her closest friends over the next few decades. Such is her fate.



Josephine with children (Diamonds and Katapiatik who shared the tent)

Bertie, her companion of 54 years, passes on to the Creator in 1997. Her lifelong friend Louisa Diamond passes in 2007. Josephine ages gracefully. She never complains. She is never bitter. She's busy looking after others. She cooks and feeds everybody. When she's out of food, she makes tea and bannock. She adores her grandchildren and shows affection to everyone. She gives hugs and kisses to children and adults alike. The little woman known as "Googooh" is a healing mother to many. She likes everyone. She has a lot of non-Native friends. She likes community events. She jokes and teases and gets it back.

Josephine walks on with her faith in the Lord Saviour. She attends church regularly. When she's in the bush, the first thing she does every morning at dawn is to read her Bible and it is the last thing she does before she goes to bed.

Her last trial takes place on June 13, 2010 when she accidentally backs up on a boiling pot while cooking moose on an open fire, and she burns one of her calves. Her wound takes long to heal and prevents her from going back to the bush for a long time. This inter-

rupts abruptly the many activities she loves to do.

When the doctors finally allow her to return to the bush on May 13, she immediately proceeds to move all her belongings into her new cabin at the gravel pit (20 km outside of Waskaganish) and manages to clean the entire adjacent shoreline. On the afternoon of Saturday, May 14, 2011, while in her teepee, cooking and working, she collapses. Family and friends believe the new cabin that made Josephine so proud was – in fact – the waiting room for God's grander mansion.

This giant leaves in her wake a priceless heritage and a never-ending story. It seems like everyone who knows her can share a wonderful story about Googooh. She is to be regarded as a keeper of the light and tradition. A defender of Native customs as they have been passed by Elders before her, patriarchs and matriarchs of a proud race. She is a model of hard work, humility, faith and acceptance – a true beacon for the generations.

Josephine is survived by seven children, 24 grandchildren, 29 great-grandchildren and five great-great-grandchildren.

Waachiiyaa Googooh!

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Out of touch

Teacher's union criticizes school board's failure to consult

by Brandon Judd

The union representing Cree School Board teachers has called into question the board's five-year plan, stating they were not properly consulted in the drafting of the plan.

"The teachers are the main people in charge of the success of the kids," said Patrick D'Astous, president of the Association of Employees of Northern Quebec. "They are the best people to see if education is going in the right or wrong direction. If [the CSB doesn't] want to listen to what they have to say, we have a little problem here."

The CSB presented their five-year action plan at a mini-conference on May 26 in Montreal. It outlined the board's

"THE TEACHERS ARE THE MAIN PEOPLE IN CHARGE OF THE SUCCESS OF THE KIDS."

plans to improve the educational issues in their schools. It is broken in to 19 categories, including plans to improve the curriculum, teacher effectiveness, literacy and student engagement.

But the union says they were not consulted in the drafting plan, and as a result the plan reflects a vision not in tune with what teachers see in their workplace.

"Things were being decided by people who weren't on the ground, and many of the strategies have been tried in the past but didn't work," said Kyla Nadeau, a teacher at Waapihtiwewan School in Oujé-Bougoumou. "No one was asking the people actually working with the students what needed to be done. It may look one way on paper, and be completely different on the ground."

The union released an evaluation of the plan which outlined their grievances with the lack of consultation, as well as

with the contempt they feel the board was treating teachers with. It was written after a consultation period with the union's members in which 41% responded, 86% of whom supported the document, according to Sector Director Tarek Khazen.

But after the mini-conference in Montreal, where CSB Deputy Director Joe MacNeil recognized and thanked the union representatives, D'Astous was far more encouraged.

"There was a message of openness, and we're pleased to see the board taking the union's comments and the teachers' recommendations into consideration," he said at the conference, held at the Sheraton Centre downtown.

D'Astous was adamant that disagreements not get in the way of improving the curriculum for the students. But while he was pleased with changes made to the CSB's plan after the union's criticism, he maintained his position that the plan still needed to better reflect the teachers' view.

"What we're looking for is consistency," he said. "There's a huge lack of substitute teachers in the board. When your teacher is sick and you don't have a substitute, you end up just watching television and wasting the day."

The union says this, coupled with a lack of resources in certain communities, has contributed to the CSB's remarkably high student absentee rate. According to the CSB's Education Review, the average attendance across the school board is just 77%. This means each student misses about 43 days of school annually. D'Astous painted this with broader strokes.

"After a few years of missing this much school, many Cree are an entire year behind in schooling," he said, shaking his head while acknowledging that though they disagree on specifics, the board is working towards improving



this. "I've recommended that the union avoid systematic fighting over grey zones because we all have to be committed to the kids. We need to use our time and energy in discussion to ensure corners are not cut with their education."

Meanwhile, Nadeau says that from the teachers' perspective, a crucial issue needing attention isn't a specific policy, but communication and access to information.

"People feel blindsided by decisions that they never knew were coming," she said. "This leads either to an atmosphere of apprehension, because you don't know what's happening next, or of discontentment, because something happens that you aren't happy about and you weren't able to prepare for."

This goal was, in D'Astous' opinion, closer to realization after the mini-conference, which he described as a positive experience. The two parties are planning to meet in late June to further discuss the plan.

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Sold out

"Building the North" mining conference in Val-d'Or was a resounding success

By Jesse Staniforth

One way to determine the success of an event is whether or not it sells out every available hotel in the surrounding area. Much to the great pleasure of Chantal Hamelin, Liason Officier with the Secretariat to the Cree Nation – Abitibi-Témiscamingue Economic Alliance, the "Building the North" mining conference, held in Val-d'Or on May 31 and June 1, managed to exhaust the city's supply of rooms in hotels, motels and beds-and-breakfasts.

"It was very well attended!" laughs Hamelin. "With over 400 delegates, it was a bit of a logistical problem to set everyone up with a place to stay. It was quite something to manage."

But squeezed accommodations aside, Hamelin described the "Building the North" conference as a resounding success.

"Everyone was very happy about the event," she said. "It was a really good experience. We had the pleasure to unite the Cree Nation of Quebec with Crees from Ontario, with Inuits from Labrador and Nunavik, and Innu from Labrador, along with people from across the Abitibi-Témiscamingue and James Bay regions."

The conference, whose central focus was on mining in the North, was set up to cultivate networking and business links between the Cree Nation and other northern communities to encourage wide community involvement in mining activities.

Organized with the help of the Cree Mineral and Exploration Board (CMEB) – whose director Jack R. Blacksmith was co-president of the event – the conference was also partnered with the Grand Council of the Crees and the City of Val-d'Or. All parties worked together, said Hamelin, to make sure the event met the needs of the Cree Nation in particular.



Among the highlights of the speakers who addressed the conference, she said, was Cree Nation attorney John Paul Murdoch.

"He really set the tone for the whole experience, talking about Cree mineral policy. He explained that people who want to do exploration and mining in the Cree territory need to get to know the

Cree Nation at its base. They need to know Cree mineral policy, and also to know what vision Crees have in regard to development. They're for development, not against it, but they want development with participation, so they get a say in their own development."

Other speakers included Michel Jébrak, Chair of Mining

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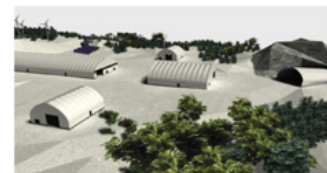
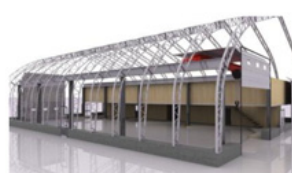
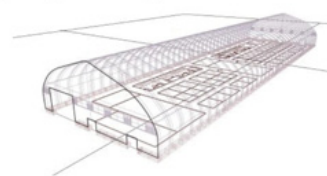
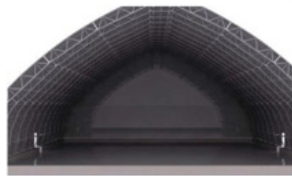
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Supercharged blues

Derek Miller launches his latest album in Montreal

By Akiva Levitas

“Getting more horsepower out of the blues genre” is how Mohawk singer-guitarist Derek Miller described his fourth and newest album, “Derek Miller with Double Trouble”, before his recent Montreal show at Pub de la Place on June 3.

Miller was in town to headline a concert showcasing the depth of Aboriginal musical talent from near and far. Opening for Miller were Cree rapper Daybi, Mohawk folk-rock singer Thomas Doubting and local singer-songwriter Bilal Butt.

But the opposite can be said – Miller isn’t getting more out of blues, he’s actually supercharging the blues genre. The new album is a culmination of numerous influences from the golden ages of blues, soul, rock and country that have inspired Miller, including Led Zeppelin and rock-n-roll guitarist Link Wray.

The first single off the album is “Damned If You Do” and features legend Willie Nelson who performs a duet with Miller. Collaborating with Nelson, Miller



Derek Miller with Double Trouble

and soul”, which has helped him evolve as an artist. Straddling close to the edge and experimenting with new sounds, Miller continues the tradition Wray blazed with his distorted guitar sounds and melodic riffs.

When it comes to advice for young artists, Miller said, “Making music isn’t meant to be a paint-by-numbers experi-

ences-inspired “Why You So Rude?”, followed by “Ophelia” and “Jellybean”.

There were plenty of beats being dropped by Daybi, who put on an epic freestyle act with his crew. Following him was Thomas Doubting, a 21-year-old folk-rock-blues singer from Kahnawake, whose soulful yet powerful songs displayed the range of his musical talent and potential. Doubting got started in music at a young age inspired by punk and metal but as he grew musically he branched off into more blues and folk as was heard in his songs.

There was a slight hitch to the evening due to the ongoing Montreal street protests taking place nearby with police cars and angry students all over the area around Berri-UQAM métro station.

After the protests died down, the audience members started to arrive and by the time Miller hit the stage, the pub was packed. However, event organizer Derek Delaronde of AK-47 Entertainment said because of the protests a good many Kahnawake residents were unable to attend the show.

Music is a growing experience and with his newest album, Miller has shown how artistically he can be influenced by the past as well as bravely venture into uncharted musical territory.

“MAKING MUSIC ISN’T MEANT TO BE A PAINT-BY-NUMBERS EXPERIENCE. IT’S ABOUT SELF-DISCOVERY WHERE ONE CAN EXPLORE YOUR OWN CREATIVITY.”

learned the aging country singer is quite the avid golfer along with other things.

Boasting 12 tracks, the album reflects a bygone era of 1950s rock infused with modern elements, which can hit listeners with both nostalgia as well as discovery.

Link Wray is a major influence in Miller’s works because of the raw energy that came from being a First Nations artist during the late 1950s and early 1960s, a time that wasn’t so conducive to artistic expression and uniqueness. But it was the result of that which pushed Wray to experiment with his sound and take rock-n-roll to where it is today.

For Miller, music has always been a healing tool, a “medicine for the mind

ence. It’s about self-discovery where one can explore your own creativity.” And there is no limit to creativity once that fuse is lit as long as there is passion.

The most important thing is to express yourself creatively through art in whatever form because it is the best medicine for the soul and improves the self-esteem. But it is not just in music that that there can be growth; Miller spoke of his interests in learning about architecture as well as his hobbies, such as racing cars.


The show opened with Bilal Butt, the afternoon host of the Butt Show on CHOM 97.7 FM, who performed songs from his new self-titled album, like the

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- 3) The development of employment at the local level, that being the Cree communities;
- 4) Encouraging local economic spin-offs to various businesses as pertains to the company's requirements;
- 5) Ensuring the visibility of Cree projects;
- 6) Developing partnerships with other Cree enterprises on a smaller scale to ensure continuity;
- 7) Ensuring profitability to its shareholders.



May this National Aboriginal Day be a day of celebrations with friends and family.

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A burning issue

Bored youths are the cause of the Waswanipi forest fire

By Akiva Levitas

On May 20, the Waswanipi Fire Department was alerted to a fire started by local youths that left around 10 hectares of destruction before water bombers were able to put the blaze out.

When emergency services arrived at the fire, the intense winds fanned the flames to heights of around 20 metres, soaring above the treetops. The proximity of the fire to the community, just a stone's throw from the local Band Office, required that most of the town be evacuated during the firefighting.

Interim Fire Chief Leroy Blacksmith said, "The fire was being pushed by the wind into the woods so we acted to contain the fire and to assist La Société de protection des forêts contre le feu (SOPFEU) when they arrived with the bombers."

The fire was controlled for the most part but the following day when the winds picked up the water bombers had to be called in again. It took around three days to fully put the fire out, although the smell will linger in the area for a while.

With the summer here and the increased risk of fires, Blacksmith urges people to keep their matches and lighters far out of reach of children. Many of the fires in the area are started by young people ages 10-15 and with fire prevention month being October, the youth need to be reminded of the dangers and destruction that can come from playing with fire.

At the Willie J. Happyjack Memorial School, students were abuzz when they returned to school after the danger subsided. With water bombers swooping around and helicopters whizzing about, it created the impression of a war zone.

When the excitement died down, the finger pointing started, with the perpetrators being called out by other students. Maya, a Grade 2 student at the



photo by Robin Blanchard



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Drawings by Grade 5 ESL students in Jane Ward's classroom

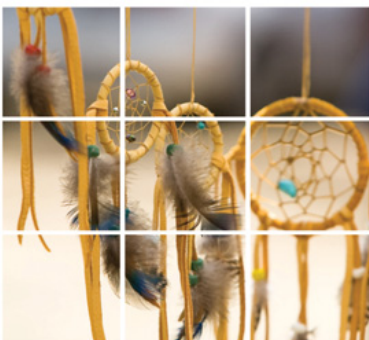
school, had a message for the problem students, "Please stop lighting the fires." Many of the younger students were left confused by the incident.

Maya's teacher, Annette Neeposh, said, "It's a shame because the fire was entirely preventable."

In the weeks leading up to the forest fire, there were three incidents of attempted arson by young children at the local park. The feeling is the children are doing this out of boredom, which can be easily prevented.

During the times when members of the Fire Department visit the school, Leroy said they are having a hard time getting the children to connect with the message. But that wasn't always the case, two years ago the department had a mascot, Sparky the dog. Leroy said, "The kids really loved Sparky and he helped get the message across." Neeposh confirmed that, "The children miss Sparky – they need a new one."

Fire is a danger that if not prevented has the potential of destroying everything in an area. During the summer months, it is imperative that parents think about fire prevention, instead of relying on the school's annual fire-safety seminar. They should check their children's pockets for lighters and matches so as to help reduce the potential of starting fires just for fun or out of boredom.



gowlings' aboriginal law group wishes you a happy national aboriginal day!

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Be safe this summer. Always put on a life jacket before you go out on the water.



Conseil Cri de la santé et des services sociaux de la Baie James
 Cree Board of Health and Social Services of James Bay

The CTA and Cree Health Board wish you a safe and happy summer holiday!



Gala Mëmëgwashi honours students

Written by Will Nicholls Photos by Paul Brindamour

The 10th anniversary is always something to celebrate but Gala Memegwashi's exceeded all expectations. This year saw a record number of 263 Aboriginal students honoured, from elementary school to university, along with high school, college, adult education and skills development.

There was a large turnout with a crowd of more than 500 on hand at the Théâtre Télébec in Val-d'Or.

Hockey legend in his own time Carey Price, goaltender for the Montreal Canadiens and member of the Ulkatcho First Nation, headed up the festivities.

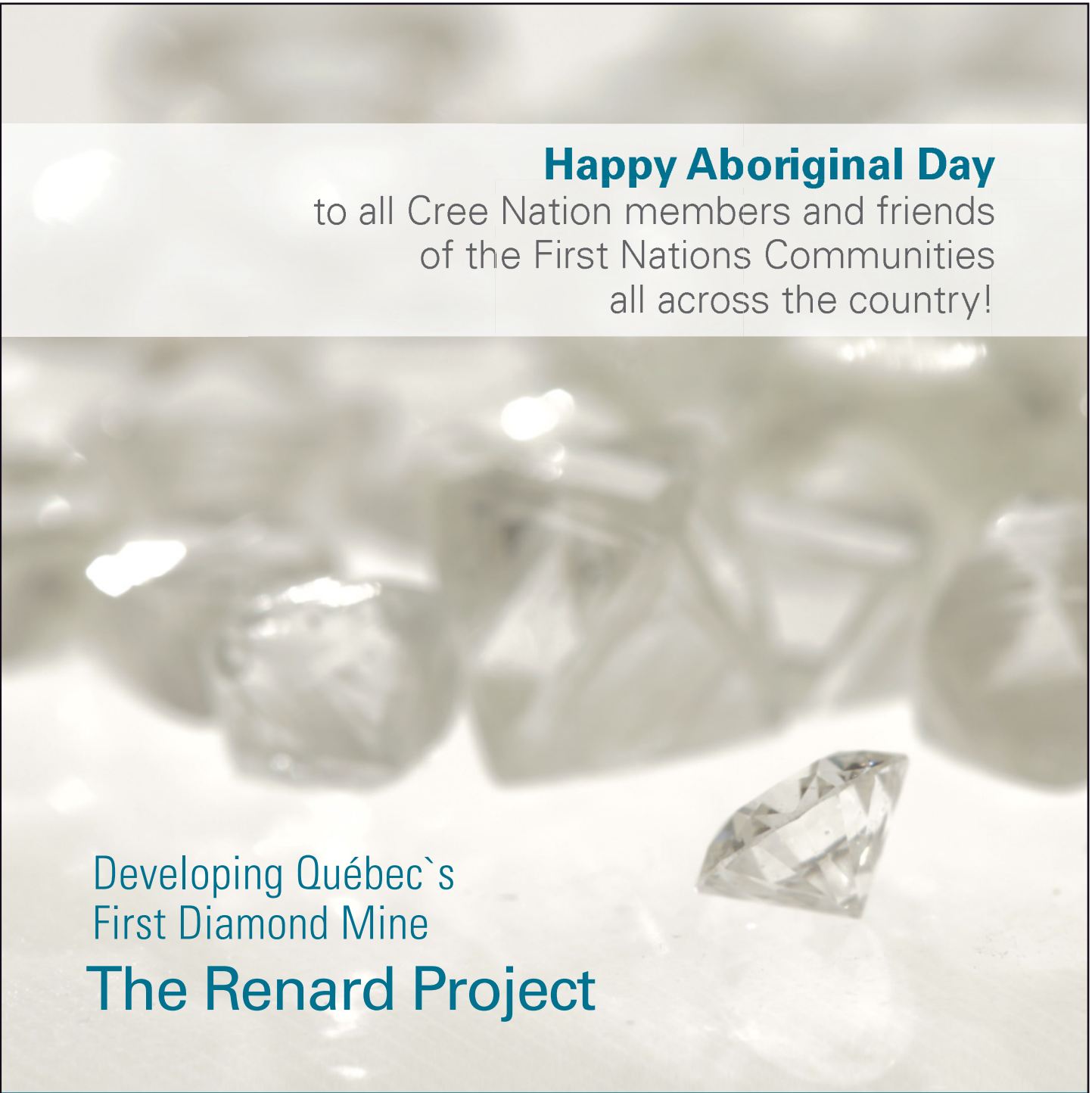
Price encouraged students to stay in schools as a way to make it happen.

In the past 10 years, Gala Mëmëgwashi has honoured 1,424 young Aboriginals from Val-d'Or. It encourages and promotes a sense of pride and accomplishment among students.

The Mëmëgwashi Tribute prize was awarded to a happy Steven Babin, a young hockey player for the Apollos. He stood out as scoring champion of the Midget AA league. This young Anishinabe works hard at his studies and even works part-time for the homework support program at the Val-d'Or Friendship Centre. Babin works intense-

ly to make his dreams a reality. Honorable mention went to Évelyne Papatie and a group of young Anishinabek from Kitcisakik who rode across Canada on their bicycles.

For the Friendship Centre's executive director Édith Cloutier, "The Mëmëgwashi Gala is an evening filled with emotion, and especially pride." She sees the hopes and achievements of many young Aboriginals as something to honour and support wholeheartedly. She said, "The Gala is an opportunity for parents to show their support for their children's academic success. It is a great moment of pride for the community."



Happy Aboriginal Day
to all Cree Nation members and friends
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Controlled workout?

Does a new resolution give the Chisasibi recreation department too much power?

By Amy German

At the end of February the sports and recreation department in Chisasibi were victorious in getting a resolution passed that would “give priority” to the department when it came to offering services to the community over groups from outside the community.

The Band Council of Chisasibi tabled this resolution after a February 13 presentation made by Trevor Allen Monaghan and Roy Neacappo to the council on how the work was being outsourced to outside parties and that this was not of benefit to the people of Chisasibi as the community’s youth was being deprived of work experience.

On February 21, then acting Chief Daisy House sent a letter of support to Monaghan and Neacappo stating:

“We understand that there have been several entities from outside of the community that have provided programs in the community but have outsourced the work force. We further agree that priority be given to both your departments before any entity from outside of the community to be mandated to offer programs in Chisasibi.”

Catching up with Monaghan, he told *the Nation* that his presentation to the Band Council was mainly to ensure that groups like Thunderbird Management Services Inc. (TMSI), no longer get contracts in the community.

He explained that in the past this group had put on summer programs for the kids in the community but that these programs had been run by Ottawa students.

“Where does that money end up going? Down south and we don’t end up providing any work experience for our kids and so we are losing funding for work experience programs,” explained Monaghan.

With the new resolution in place, Monaghan has it set up so that priority is

given to his department to provide programs for all aspects of fitness and recreation in the community. And, he is adamant that the group of trainers that he personally trained and certified through the Good Life Fitness Club in Ottawa can handle just about everything when it comes to providing community sports and recreation programs. This includes providing programs that involve resistance balls, similar to the Lemon Cree programs that are very popular everywhere else in Eeyou Istchee, except in Chisasibi.

In celebrating his victory over being granted control over the community’s fitness and recreation programs, Monaghan took to the internet to let the Cree Women of Eeyou Istchee Association (CWEIA) know just how happy he was to have obtained this letter and official priority.

“Secured programming here in Chisasibi for Fitness and Recreation, developed and run by us Crees. WOOHOO!” he posted on the group’s Facebook page.

“I REALLY WANTED THE LEMON CREE PROGRAM BECAUSE I FEEL THAT IT IS JUST SUCH A POSITIVE AND SUPPORTIVE ENVIRONMENT FOR WOMEN.”

While Monaghan was simply feeling enthusiastic and wanting to share his victory with the world, or more specifically, the female population of the Cree nation, the comments reeked of sarcasm as some of the women of Chisasibi had been requesting that a Lemon Cree program for months before Monaghan and Neacappo made their presentation.

Starting in 2010 with the CWEIA, Theresa Ducharme’s Resist-a-ball fitness



Lemon Cree

programs have caught on like wildfire throughout the communities and have now seen over 400 Crees receive training with incredible weight loss results and an additional 41 individuals have now been certified as Lemon Cree fitness trainers.

The desire however is still alive in Chisasibi to see the Lemon Cree training programs make their way to the community as not everyone is satisfied with the kind of programs Monaghan and Neacappo are offering.

Said one Chisasibi woman who didn’t want to be identified:

“I don’t like using the services that are currently being offered in Chisasibi because I really don’t feel comfortable



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with the trainers because they are all young guys.

"Whenever I have gone into that gym it's just a bunch really athletic guys who won't even greet me or make any kind of eye contact with me, but instead hover all together in one corner. It's just so uncomfortable, I feel like they are passing judgment on me.

"There is nobody in there that I can relate too.

"I really wanted the Lemon Cree program because I feel that it is just such a positive and supportive environment for women. I feel that they can help me achieve my goals best."

She went on to say that she is not the only one in this position.

But, whether this means Chisasibi will actually be running Lemon Cree programs remains to be seen.

Monaghan said repeatedly that he had yet to receive any kind of proposal from Ducharme's people and that a written proposal was necessary.

While Monaghan has no issue with Ducharme herself, he seems to take issue with the Crees who have taken her instructor-training course.

"When you look at accredited organizations, sure this is popular and I would let Theresa run her program here. Theresa is a brand name; she is a dynamic trainer and she has a great personality, but ultimately as you certify people some of that filters down and it is not the same and that is my concern," said Monaghan.

While in one breath Monaghan said his department already had a model in place to certify trainers at his gym in Chisasibi and that Ducharme may have copied that, in his next he questions the sustainability of Lemon Cree courses in



the communities and the standards at which her trainers are trained.

"That's my question with Theresa, are we [sic] getting her as the brand or is it the programs because we can create our own ball programs. We already use exercise balls in some of our programs. I used ball training over 10 years ago and sure it is great and it is new and there is obviously a need for it, but I haven't had anything come across my desk that is actually valid and I am waiting," Monaghan added.

In following up with Ducharme however, not only has the Lemon Cree fitness programs had a tremendous impact on the Cree in the communities that have had the opportunity to take the courses, but her trainers are also 100% legitimate. For that matter, her training program was created based on the cur-

riculum she developed for McGill University.

"Currently we are partnered with Sports Fitness Canada to provide our instructors with insurance and liability coverage if they are not covered by the sports and recreation or any other training facility.

"From an economic standpoint, we are pleased to say that our certification program has created employment for our instructors and our programs have been running successfully for years now. Our instructors are people who have a passion in exercising and in helping others reach their fitness and wellness goals," said Ducharme.

She encouraged anyone who wanted to find out more about the Lemon Cree programs to visit her website: www.lemoncree.com

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Le 21 juin marque la Journée nationale des Autochtones. Ce n'est pas un hasard si cette célébration coïncide avec le solstice d'été. Ce passage d'une saison à une autre revêt un caractère hautement symbolique pour vous. C'est un moment privilégié pour festoyer, pour exprimer votre sentiment d'appartenance, pour rendre hommage à vos traditions et, surtout, pour affirmer votre fierté.

Pour le gouvernement du Québec, l'essor des onze nations autochtones constitue un enjeu d'une importance fondamentale. Vous avez contribué de façon significative à l'édification du Québec d'aujourd'hui et, ensemble, nous développerons de grands projets qui façonneront le Québec de demain pour nos générations futures.

**Je vous souhaite, à tous et à toutes,
une très belle journée !**

Le ministre responsable des Affaires autochtones,

Geoffroy Kelley

June 21 is National Aboriginal Day and it's no coincidence that this celebration takes place during the summer solstice. This passage from one season to another is highly symbolic. It's a time to feast, express your sense of belonging, pay tribute to your traditions, and, especially, affirm pride.

For the Government of Québec, the growth of the eleven Aboriginal nations is a priority. Your contribution to building the Québec of today has been significant and, together, we will develop major projects that will shape the Québec of tomorrow for our future generations.

**Best wishes to all for a great
National Aboriginal Day!**

Québec 

Golden team

Eastern Door & North Women's squad wins Aboriginal hockey championship

Story and photos by Daniel Coyle

The First Nations hockey season came to a conclusion on the ice in Saskatoon as the 2012 National Aboriginal Hockey Championship (NAHC) winners were crowned. And this year, it was the Eastern Door & North (ED&N) women's squad that brought home the hardware, as the girls rebounded from a rough start to the tournament to knock off the hometown Team Saskatchewan in the gold medal game.

The ladies opened the tournament with a 7-1 loss at the hands of Team Alberta, but there was no looking back after that humbling experience, as the team went undefeated the rest of the way, shutting out Team Northwest Territories 9-0 and knocking off Ontario 7-2 to earn a medal round berth. In the quarter final, the girls kept rolling on, defeating Team BC 7-1, before avenging their opening game loss by eliminating Alberta in the semi-final by a score of 4-2.

That win set the stage for the gold medal showdown against Saskatchewan, a team that had gone undefeated on home ice until that point in the tourney. The gold medal game was a back and forth affair with the ED&N girls hanging on to win 3-2; and hang on they did as Saskatchewan scored what would have been the tying goal just as time expired in the third period. The goal was disallowed and the Cree, Algonquin, Innu, Inuit and Mohawk players that made up the ED&N women's team were able to start their celebration.

An important addition to this year's squad was behind the bench, where Wemindji's Sara Morrison, a former ED&N player and currently a forward for the University of Ottawa Gee-Gees, made her coaching debut as an assistant to Head Coach Patrice Dominique.

Unable to play because of NAHC rules that disqualify players who play at

the CIS level during the regular season, Morrison moved from her familiar role as a leader in the dressing room to new territory behind the bench.

And the transition took some getting used to.

"I tried to give the girls feedback, so they could play more as a team, develop as a team," said Morrison, who won NCAA Rookie of the Year honours while playing for Liberty University (Lynchburg, Virginia) during the 2010-2011 season.

"You can't be best friends with your players. It was hard to not get close to the girls on a friendship level, but I needed to do it more on a coaching level, so that they would respect me. As a player, I am used to building these relationships deeply and quickly. As a coach, it takes a lot more time."

In addition to getting comfortable in her role as Assistant Coach, Morrison also learned quickly what is involved

when one of your players is your younger sister – in this case, Dana Morrison.

"We talked before the tournament," said Morrison, when asked if coaching her sister brought any challenges. "She knew what she had to do. Dana wanted to show the girls that you have to listen to the coach and adjust your game to win."

With her sister beside her, Morrison, who has patrolled the blue line for many years, took on the task of coaching the ED&N defense players and managing the team's defensive systems, while Head Coach Dominique took care of the forwards.

"That was a big role for me," added Morrison. "The hardest part was making lines and pairings to provide offence and balance quickness. By the end of the second game, we had set lines that we used for the rest of the tourney, and that took us all the way to the gold."



Sara & Dana Morrison

"As a first-time coach, it was hard not to be frustrated," said Morrison, recalling the difficulties the team faced after losing the tournament opener to Alberta. "But after beating NWT, it was a huge confidence builder for the team, and the girls took it from there."

So now that Morrison has gotten a taste of coaching, could it become a bigger part of her hockey future?

"I plan on it doing it for the next couple years at the NAHC. I would like to be a head coach for this team. But, right now I am focusing more on school," explained Morrison. "I think I could pick it up later though. I would like to give back the way my parents always gave to me."

While there are many people involved in First Nations hockey that are concerned about where the next generation of coaches will come from, the young women who hope to play for ED&N in future NAHC tournaments don't appear to have anything worry about.



Cree Beneficiary players from ED&N 2012: April Bosum, Shayna Dominique, Dana Morrison, Jessica Kistabish, Katie Napash and Dayna Bobbish

Our best wishes to all Aboriginal people on this National Aboriginal Day

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Pow Wow Season

Rules to remember when traveling the Pow Wow circuit

By ndiamon

It's time once again to get in your rez car and head down the Pow Wow highway. Strangely enough there are no Eeyou Istchee Pow Wows listed this year so you'll have to travel far. Not all people, Native or otherwise, are Pow Wow people so a quick lesson in etiquette at this point is probably a good idea.

Rule Number 1: Do NOT, whatever you do, hit on the Pow Wow princess because one doesn't try to pick up royalty. And you're probably so stuffed on goose fat that your wife has to roll you down the road instead of walking you. Good luck snagging an Indian Princess.

Rule Number 2: PLEASE do NOT play the Hollywood Indian beat should you be honoured with the opportunity to drum with one of the groups. Keep in mind the drumbeat is our Mother Earth's heartbeat and not our elderly drunken diabetic about to have a stroke or our dirty uncle on mescaline – or acid, depending on which part of Indian Country you find yourself in.

Rule Number 3: If you find yourself in the bazaar that IS a decent Pow Wow. Do not haggle on the price of that twist of sweetgrass or a pack of cigarettes. Insist that those plants are sacred and they should be shared with all alike, do the "trade" and get the hell out of there.

Rule Number 4: There IS no rule Number Four! The very number is sacred. You might as well try to get off the 13th floor on a New York City high-rise.

Rule Number 5: Do not snicker and mock our Indian brothers who bought their "traditional" regalia from our powerful Chinese capitalist kin. We ARE only separated by 30,000 years, you'll be pleased to find out. I love the Chinese, but especially the Mongols.

Rule Number 6: This is one of THE most important rules, even though it's only six on the list so pay attention. Do not



dress like the Lakota, Dakota or the Nakota – because everyone does and I have a feeling that they are a bit pissed off about it. Discover your own closet and find something wearable, Pow Wow-wise that says, I'm Cree and I'm wearing this piece of beaver skin, accented with muskrat feet, topped up with the tail of moose and dazzled with an Inuit scalp that proves my people were as fierce as those lousy Sioux.

Rule Number 7: Do not even think of going beyond the number seven. For that number is a human number. And I think you have to listen to Iron Maiden for that fatal clue. Or was that the number six. Rest assured the Rules & Etiquette of Pow Wow don't go as high up as 666. The Lord be with thee, Injun. You'll need Him.

Rule Number 8: I don't get paid enough for this number of words so I'll get some sleep and head to the coast tomorrow bright and early and soak in the sun. Good luck and have fun on this year's Pow Wow highway.

Rule Number 20: You weren't even paying attention, were you?

THE 2012 POW WOW LISTINGS

THE 2012 POW WOW LISTINGS

JUNE

June 15: 6th Kingston's 4th Annual Children's Pow Wow
Location: Children's Pow Wow
734 Montreal St (560 Legion)
Veteran's Ball Park
Kingston, ON
Info: 613-548-1500

June 15-17: 2012 Spirit of the Peace 7th Annual Traditional

Powwow: Empowering the Spirit of our Women

Location: District Ice Centre,
Taylor, BC (14km south of Fort St. John)
Info: 250-785-0612; Marlene Greyeyes, ext. 251; Leeanna Rhodes, ext. 238; Susan Auger, ext. 258
www.treaty8.bc.ca/celebrations/powwow.php

June 15-17: Noongam traditional Pow Wow

Location: Queen Juliana Park,
Ottawa, ON
Info: www.noongam.50megs.com

June 15-17: 25th Annual Chief Will-Yum Father's Day Pow Wow

Location: Chief Will-Yum RV & Campsite
Williams Lake Indian Band
2672 Indian Drive, Williams Lake, BC
Info: 250-296-3128
www.williamslakeband.ca/Businesses/HeritagePark.aspx

June 16-17: Henvey Inlet First Nation's 9th Annual Inter-Tribal Pow Wow

Location: French River IR #13
Pickerel Reserve, ON

Info: PowWow Coordinator Luana McQuabbie 1-866-252-3330
luana.mcquabbie@henveymedical-centre.com
www.facebook.com/events/243613272399475/

June 15-17: Annual Wolastoqiyik Pow Wow 2012

Location: Government House
Grounds, Fredericton, NB
Info: (vendors) Amanda Morgan at 506-262-0380 or 506-458-9511
stmarysfirstnation.com/index.html

June 22-24: Whitesand First Nation 30th Annual Pow Wow
Location: Whitesand First Nation, Armstrong Station, ON
(On HWY 527, 263 km north of Thunder Bay, ON)
Info: 807-583-2177
www.wsfm.ca

June 23-24: 51st Annual Aamkiwnaang First Nation Competition Pow Wow
Location: Aamkiwnaang First Nation (formerly Chippewas of Sarnia)
978 Tashmoo Ave, Sarnia, ON
Info: 519-336-8410
Email: twilliams@aamjiwnaang.ca

June 23-24: Sheshegwaning First Nation Annual Traditional Pow Wow
Location: Sheshegwaning, ON
Info: 705-283-3292
www.sheshegwaning.org

June 21-24: 2012 Summer Solstice International Competition Pow Wow
Location: Vincent Massey Park
2720 Riverside Drive, Ottawa, ON
Info: 613-564-9494, ext. 105

June 22-24: 11th Annual Chippewa Traditional Gathering
Location: Chippewa of the Thames First Nation
London, ON
Jubilee Park, Jubilee Rd, Muncey, ON
Info: Mark French 519-289-0727 (mark.french@sympatico.ca);
Andre Halfday 519-289-2888

June 22-24: Rainy River First Nations Annual Pow Wow
Location: Rainy River First Nations
30 minutes west of Fort Frances, ON
Info: Elvis DeBungee 807-482-2479, ext.233 or 807-482-2904

June 30-July 1: 18th Munsee-Delaware Nation Traditional Pow Wow
Location: Munsee-Delaware Nation Park
Muncey, ON
Info: Band Office 519-289-5396 (business hours)

June 29-30 and July 1: Abenakis Pow Wow
Location: Abenakis Band Council
Odanak, QC
Info: 450-568-2810 or 1-888-568-2810 (toll free)
Email: reception@cbodanak.com

www.cbodanak.com/anglais/page_/powWow-Agl.html

June 29-July 1: Wendake International Pow Wow
Location: Maison du tourisme
Wendake, QC
Info: 418-847-1835
Direct: 418-847-5984
Toll free: 1-888-WENDAKE (Canada and USA)
info@tourismewendake.ca
www.tourismewendake.ca

June 29-30: Metepenagiag Pow Wow
Location: Metepenagiag Mi'kmaq Nation, NB
Info: Anna Ward 506-836-6106 or 506-836-6111

June 29-July 1: 15th Annual Swan Lake Competition Pow Wow
Location: Swan Lake First Nation
South-central MB, along Highway junctions 23 & 34
Info: Delmar Peters 204-836-2424
Myrna McIvor 204-836-2897
Band Office toll-free: 1-866-395-3240

JULY

July 4-5: Sheguiandah First Nation Annual Traditional Pow Wow
Location: Sheguiandah First Nation
Sheguiandah, ON
Info: 705-368-2781
www.sheguiandahfn.com

July 5-8: Pabineau First Nation 10th Annual Pow Wow
Location: 1290 Pabineau Falls Road
Pabineau First Nation, NB
Info: Rose or Marie Kryszko 506-547-4204
www.pabineaufirstnation.ca/Annua1%20Pow%20Wow.htm

July 6-8: Ermineskin Cree Nation 2012 Annual Pow Wow
Location: Ermineskin Cree Nation
Bear Park in Hobbema, AB
Info: Nina 780-585-2000; Vince 780-361-3331; Harley 780-360-9061
www.erminekin.wordpress.com/2012/04/18/erminekin-pow-wow-july-6-8-2012

July 6-8: Squamish Nation 25th Annual Youth Pow Wow
Location: Squamish Nation
Capilano Reserve Park
100 Capilano Rd, Squamish
Nation, BC

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Info: Jan Baker at
snpowwow@hotmail.com

**July 1 weekend: Miawpukek
First Nation 17th Traditional
Pow Wow**

Location: Conne River, NL
Info: Darlene Joe, Collie Jeddore,
Denise John, Thelma Drew 709-
882-2470; Colleen Lambert 709-
882-2470

ac.vognfm@rct.ca
www.mfingov.ca/miawpukek-first-
nation-powwow/

**July 1 weekend: Halifax
International Pow Wow**

Location: Halifax Common,
Halifax, NS

Info:
www.halifaxpowwow.com/events/
halifax_pow_wow

**July 6-8: Alexis Nakota Sioux
Nation Pow Wow**

Location: Alexis Nakota Sioux
Nation
Glenevis, AB
Info: Pow Wow Coordinator Dale
Alexis 780-967-2225
powwow2012@ansn.ca
www.alexisnakotasious.com/defau
lt.aspx?ID=3-1

**July 10-12: Sakicawasihk
Annual Pow Wow**

Location: North Battleford Civic
Centre
North Battleford, SK
Info: Shaun 1-877-446-3833
Vendors: Joe 1-877-446-3833

**July 13-15: 6th Annual Bay St.
George Mi'kmaq Pow Wow**

Location: Route 403, Flat Bay, NL
Info: Carolyn Sheppard 709-647-
3422 kalolin.sheppard@gmail.com

**July 14-15: The Echoes of a
Proud Nation Pow Wow -
Mohawks of Kahnawake - 22nd
Anniversary Pow Wow**

Location: Kahnawake Mohawk
Territory, QC
Info: 450-632-8667
Fax: 450-632-2813
info@kahnawakepowwow.com

**July 14-15: Sagamok
Anishinaabek Traditional Pow
Wow**

Location: Traditional Pow Wow
Grounds
Massey, ON
Info: www.sagamok.ca

**July 16-17: Annual Alderville
First Nation Traditional Pow
Wow**

Location: Alderville First Nation
11696 2nd Line Road, Alderville,
ON
Info: 905-352-2011
www.aldervillefirstnation.ca

July 21-22: Pays Plat Pow Wow

Location: Pays Plat First Nation
Pow Wow Committee

10 Central Place, Pays Plat, ON
Info: 807-824-2541
www.paysplat.com

**July 21-22: Lake Helen Pow
Wow**

Location: Lake Helen First Nation
Nipigon, ON
Info: 1-877-887-2510
www.redrockband.ca

**July 20-21: Eel Ground First
Nation - Natoaganeg Annual
Pow Wow**

Location: Eel Ground First Nation
- Natoaganeg
47 Church Road, Eel Ground, NB
Info: 506-627-4600
www.eelground.bravehost.com/

**July 20-22: Squilax
Competition Pow Wow**

Location: Squilax Pow Wow
Grounds
Squilax Bridge, East of Chase
Squilax, BC
Info: 250-679-3203;
jarnouse@lslib.com
Julie John 250-572-6215;
julie_joh@hotmail.com

**July 21-22: Mississaugas of
Scugog Island First Nation
16th Annual Pow Wow**

Location: 22521 Island Road
Port Perry, ON
Contact: Della 905-985-1826 or
705-985-3337

**Mid July: Potlotek First Nation
Pow Wow**

Location: Chapel Island, NS
Info: 902-535-3317
www.potlotek.ca/cifn/powwow.ht
ml

**July 27-29: Pic Mobert Pow
Wow**

Location: Pic Mobert First Nation
Mobert, ON
Info: 1-888-797-1123
www.picmobert.ca

**July 27-29: Kamloopa Pow
Wow**

Location: 331 - 345 Yellowhead
Highway
Yellowhead Hwy #5N & Shuswap
Road
Kamloops, BC
Info: 250-828-9782
powwow@kib.ca
www.tkemlups.ca

**July 28-29: 30th Annual Lake
of the Eagles Pow Wow**

Location: Eagle Lake First Nation,
ON
Info: Event Organizer/Councillor
Bob Gardner, Event
Organizer/Elder Nancy Gardner at
the Eagle Lake First Nation Band
Office at 807-755-5526
www.eaglelakefirstnation.ca



**July 28-29: Grand River 33rd
Annual Champion of
Champions Pow Wow**

Location: Six Nations of the Grand
River
Chiefswood Tent and Trailer Park
Brant County Road 254,
Ohsweken, ON
Info: Pow Wow Committee 519-
445-4061
Pow Wow Grounds 519-751-3908
(July 24-30 only)
Six Nations Tourism 1-866-393-
3001
www.ahki.ca/
www.grpowwow.com

**Late July: Switzmalph Cultural
Day & Pow Wow**

Location: First Nations Road
Salmon Arm, BC
Info: Salmon Arm (250) 803-0395

AUGUST

**Aug 3-5: Atikamekw of
Manawan Pow Wow**

Location: Atikamekw of Manawan
121 Atikamekw, Manawan, QC
Info: 819-971-8640
www.manawan.com

**Aug 4-6: Wikwemikong
Unceded Indian Reserve 52nd
Cultural Festival**

Location: Wikwemikong Unceded
Indian Reserve
Manitoulin Island, ON
Info: 1-877-859-2385 or Brian
Peltier 705-859-2385
www.wikwemikongheritage.org

**Aug 10-12: Millbrook First
Nation Pow Wow**

Location: Millbrook First Nation
945 Willow St, Truro, NS
Info: 1-800-693-3112
www.millbrookfirstnation.net/pow
wow.php

**August 11-12: Michipicoten
First Nation Pow Wow and
Youth & Elder's Gathering**

Location: Michipicoten First
Nation
Wawa, ON P0S 1K0
Info: 705-856-1993
www.michipicoten.com

**Aug 11-12: Saugeen First
Nation Annual Competition
Pow Wow**

Location: Saugeen First Nation
#29
6493 Highway 21
R.R. # 1 Southampton, ON
Info: Clinton Root 519-797-1973
clinton.renee@sympatico.ca
www.saugeenfirstnation.ca/index.p
hp

**Mid-August:
Nigigoonsiminikaaning 9th
Annual Pow Wow**

Location: Nigigoonsiminikaaning
First Nation
Fort Frances, ON
Info: Band Office 807-481-2536
www.nigigoonsiminikaaning.ca

**Aug 17-19: Annual Caribou
Contest Pow Wow**

Location: Williams Lake Indian
Band
2672 Indian Drive, Williams Lake,
BC
Info: 1-877-856-3507

**Aug 18-19: Whitefish River
First Nation 19th Annual
Traditional Pow Wow**

Location: Whitefish River First
Nation
Rainbow Ridge Rd, Birch Island,
ON
Info: 705-285-4335 or Band Office
1-800-265-4335 (toll free)

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the Nation
www.nationnews.ca

Aug 19-21: Skacheen 15th Annual Traditional Pow Wow (Neskonlith)

Location: Neskonlith Pow Wow Grounds
Neskonlith Reserve, BC
Info: Patrick Adrian 250-572-6075;
Laura Coles 250-679-8584;
Neskonlith Band Office 250-679-3295
www.neskonlith.org

Aug 24-26: 2nd Annual Mattagami First Nation Traditional Pow Wow

Location: Mattagami First Nation Mattagami Indian Reserve, Gogama, ON
Info: Dana Cosgrove, Pow Wow Coordinator 1-888-269-7729
www.mattagami.com/mattagami-annual-pow-wow

Aug 24-26: Biinjitiwaabik Zaaging Anishinaabek 25th Annual Pow Wow

Location: MacDiarmid, ON (on the shore of Lake Nipigon)
Info: 807-885-3401
www.rockybayfn.ca

Aug 25-26: Pow Wow Celebration 2012

Location: Seniors Complex Gazebo Area (across from Casino Rama)
5884 Rama Rd, Rama, ON

Info: 705-325-3611, exts. 1299, 1294, 1288
www.mnjikaning.ca/powwow/index.asp

Aug 25-26: Zhiibaahaasing First Nation Traditional Pow Wow

Location: Zhiibaahaasing First Nation
General Delivery, Zhiibaahaasing, ON
Info: 807-885-3401
www.circletrail.com/2012/2012-pow-wow-schedule-2

Aug 25-26: Timiskaming First Nation's 10th Annual Traditional Pow Wow and Traditional Gathering

Location: Timiskaming First Nation
24 Algonquin Ave, Notre-Dame-du-Nord, QC
Info: Dan Lavigne 819-723-2335
www.timiskamingfirstnation.ca/powwow.html

Aug 25-26: Three Fires Homecoming Pow Wow and Traditional Gathering

Location: The Mississaugas of the New Credit First Nation
600 acres south of Hamilton, ON
Info: Cultural Coordinator 905-768-5686; Faith Rivers 519-445-2283 (after hours)

Aug 25-26: Tobique (Nagootgook) First Nation - Annual Pow Wow

Location: Tobique (Nagootgook) First Nation
13156 RTE. 105, Tobique First Nation, NB
Info: 506-273-5424

Aug 31-Sept 2: Ochapowace First Nations Contest Pow Wow

Location: 25km north of Whitewood
Whitewood, SK
Info: 306-696-2425
www.ochapowace.com

Aug 31-Sept 2: Nipissing First Nations 23rd Annual Traditional Pow Wow

Location: Nipissing First Nation
24 Semo Road, Garden Village, ON
Info: Rodney Commanda, Cultural Coordinator 705-753-2050 ext. 1260
rodneyc@nfn.ca
www.nfnculture.ca

SEPTEMBER - NOVEMBER

September 1-2: M'chigeeng First Nation Annual Traditional Pow Wow

Location: Traditional Pow Wow
53 Hwy 551, M'Chigeeng First Nation, ON
Info: 705-377-5362

www.mchigeeng.ca/

September 2-4: Elsipogtog First Nation - Annual Pow Wow

Location: Elsipogtog First Nation
R. R. # 1, 373 Big Cove Rd, Big Cove, NB
Info: 506-523-8222
www.mawiwCouncil.ca/index.html

September 8-9: Six Nations Fall Fair & Pow Wow

Location: Ohsweken Fair Grounds, Ohsweken, ON
Info: 1-866-393-3001
www.sntourism.ca

September 8-9: Akewesasne International Pow Wow

Location: Cornwall Island, ON
Info: www.akwesasnepowwow.com

September 14-16: Annual Pow Wow & Native Harvest Festival

Location: 1600 Attawandaron Rd, London, ON
Info: 519-473-1360

October 26-28: 2012 "Spirit of Our Nations" Cultural Celebration and Pow Wow

Location: Credit Union Centre
3515 Thatcher Ave, Saskatoon, SK
Info: 306-244-1146
powwow@sicc.sk.ca
www.sicc.sk.ca



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Marc Bibeau (m.bibeau@autobusmaheux.qc.ca)



New blood

Pam Palmater challenges National Chief Atleo for AFN leadership

By Irkar Beljaars

Pam Palmater, a Mi'kmaq from the Eel River Barr First Nation in northern New Brunswick, has thrown her hat into the ring to take on Shawn A-in-chut Atleo, the National Chief of the Assembly of First Nations (AFN), who will face the first challenge to his leadership on July 18.

Palmater, a lawyer and an associate professor at Ryerson University in Toronto, decided to run after The Crown-First Nations gathering in January of this year and at the behest of the grassroots organizations whose voices don't always reach the more than 600 chiefs who sit in the AFN.

Palmater's fear is that the AFN's direction is one of assimilation and not the recognition of First Nations rights to control their own lives, lands and environment. Her platform includes sovereignty and land issues, missing and murdered women, education and housing all of which have suffered under the Harper government. "We need to get back to the core issues, which are land, sovereignty and people. These three issues are what is important all Aboriginals."

Palmater goes on to talk about political and legal sovereignty and how it's been eroded over the past few years, how we've lost more and more control of our own lives. She talks about the over-representation of Aboriginals in the prison system, the lack of proper care in the child welfare system and the homeless. "With sovereignty, we have a responsibility to act on it and to take care of our people. We have a crisis in our communities, with poor water and housing, violence and missing women and we need to bring all this into the mainstream."

Part of sovereignty is a return to our roots, which means better representation for Native women within

the AFN. "If we look at all the chiefs and band councillors across Canada, we have more women chiefs and band councillors than Canada has MPs. And if the Native women are underrepresented in the AFN than that is something that needs to change, it's about leading by example," said Palmater.

"We have to remember how it got that way and that's because of the Indian Act. It displaced and prevented women from running for office, which is what the colonizers wanted in the first place." When asked if she would seek an end to the Indian Act, Palmater answered with an emphatic yes!

The continuing theme of the Palmater campaign is about speaking up and being heard. She referenced the late Shannon Koostachin, who drew the world's attention to the fact that the Cree community of Attawapiskat didn't have a viable school. "If a 13-year-old girl can stand up and speak out about the injustice being done to her community and many others, then what are we waiting for?"

Palmater underlined the overrepresentation of Aboriginals in the prison system, where correctional investigators have reported consistently about the discrimination faced by Aboriginal inmates that is due to the Canadian government's policies regarding First Nations prisoners – and even the Supreme Court of Canada has agreed. "Howard Sapers (the Correctional Investigator for Canada), who wrote the report, has been crying about this issue for 15 years, and the problem isn't decreasing but increasing."

A better relationship with Canada is what Palmater wants. She's done with the niceties that the politicians share. She wants fact-based discussions that



Pam Palmater a Mi'kmaq Lawyer from the Eel River Barr First Nation

will lead to reconciliation between First Nations communities and she feels that can only begin with new leadership. "We want Canadians to know that it's a fact that chronic under-funding of every social program has led to the premature deaths of First Nations by 7 to 30 years. These are conscious choices that the federal government is making and there's medical facts to prove it."

It's these kinds of issues that has brought Palmater into the race for the AFN leadership. She feels that if First Nations children were not First Nations they wouldn't be suffering from a lack of funding.

"Had my grandmother been my grandfather, I would be running for chief of my community. It's a fact that the government of Canada has an extinction date for all First Nations and you can look that up!"

Palmater's message is that until we start talking about the real problems facing First Nations, we will never be able to solve them.

The AFN will choose a new national chief on July 18.



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2012 Golf Tourney Season

By Daniel Coyle

The list of summer golf tournaments continues to grow.

The following list of Cree-related golf tournaments, taking place across Quebec in the coming weeks and months, builds on the information already published.

Of particular note is the addition of several key tourneys to the schedule, including the Cree Nation Achievement Awards Foundation golf tournament happening on Friday August 31 at Mont-Tremblant. This year, the tourney will take place on Tremblant's two famous courses, Le Diable and Le Geant.

The Cree Nation Open Golf Championship will take place in Chibougamou on Saturday July 14, followed by the

Mistissini's 9th Annual Stanley Longchap Golf Classic, also happening in Chibougamou on Thursday July 19.

The season will wrap up on the Saturday after Labour Day, September 8, with Waskaganish's Albert W. Diamond Golf Classic, taking place at the Belvédère Golf Club in Val-d'Or.

This list is sure to grow as more tournaments are announced. If we haven't listed your tournament, it is because we haven't got the details yet. Please let us know and we will add your tournament to the list ASAP.

Enjoy the golf season, and remember to swing easy!

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Enjoy the golf season, and remember to swing easy!

Cree Indian Centre of Chibougamau Friendship Golf Benefit

Tournament will raise funds for the construction of a new building.

Friday June 15, Club de Golf Chibougamau-Chapais,
Contact: Jo-Ann Toulouse
418-748-7667 ext 230

Cree Nation of Chisasibi Golf Benefit

Thursday July 5, Belvedere Golf Club, Val-d'Or
Contact: Ronnie Rupert 819-855-5020

Quebec Native Women's Sixth Annual Fundraising Golf Tournament

"A tournament to fight Aboriginal poverty"

Friday July 6, Caughnawaga Golf Club, Kahnawake
Contact: Jennifer Brazeau 450-632-0088 ext 232 or specialevents@faq-qnw.org

Oujé-Bougoumou Golf Benefit

Thursday July 12, Club de Golf Chibougamau
Contact: Curtis Bosum 418-745-2519
golf@ouje.ca

Cree Nation of Washaw Sibi Eeyou Golf Classic

Friday July 13, Club de Golf Oiselet, Amos
Contact: Bill Katapatuk, Jr.
819-732-9409

bkatapatuk_77@hotmail.com

Cree Nation Open Golf Championship

Saturday July 14, Club de Golf Chibougamau
Contact: Shawn Iserhoff 418-923-2274
cnmgolf@hotmail.com

Cree Nation of Mistissini – 9th Annual Stanley Longchap Golf Classic

Thursday July 19, Chibougamau-Chapais Golf Club, Chibougamau
Contact: Ryan Petawabano
418-923-3248 / 418-770-1421
cnmgolf@hotmail.com

Cree Nation of Nemaska Golf Benefit

Monday August 2, Belvedere Golf Club, Val-d'Or
Contact: Teddy Wapachee 819-673-2600
teddywapachee@hotmail.com

Cree Nation of Eastmain Golf Benefit

Tuesday August 3, Belvedere Golf Club, Val-d'Or
Contact: Doris Gilpin 819-977-0211

Cree Nation of Waswanipi Golf Benefit

Tuesday August 14, Belvedere Golf Club, Val-d'Or
Contact: David Happyjack 819-753-2450, ext. 229
davidhappyjack@hotmail.com

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Sunday June 17 (2 pm to 5 pm) / **Monday June 18** (9 am to 4 pm)

Chisasibi / Trailer near Firehall / Charles House

Tuesday June 19 (11 am to 4 pm) / **Wed. June 20** (8 am to 4 pm)

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UNDER THE NORTHERN SKY

Forest fires have something to do with global warming

by Xavier Kataquapit

The past few weeks have been very anxious for so many people in northern Ontario who have had to deal with huge forest fires. These fires are no surprise to Native Elders. Many Elders I speak to have been warning of the climate changing for a few years now. They worry that the weather will become very hot and the forest dry.

Big companies involved mainly in energy, have a lot of influence over governments to try to convince us that we should not be listening to the world's most prominent scientists regarding global warming and our runaway pollution of the air, land and water. However, people are not as stupid as these manipulators think. We can all see evidence of climate change in the weather patterns all over the world and in particular in our own backyard in northern Ontario. The Elders I talk to tell me that there are great changes that have to do with shorter and warmer winters, hotter and longer summers and they point out that this affects the land and the animals and birds that live on Mother Earth.

Few people I talk to can remember a spring fire season as bad as this one. There was less snow in the forest this winter and the cold season was shorter. This combined with a hot sunny spring produced a very dry forest that ended up resulting in the huge fires experienced near Timmins and Kirkland Lake.

Our governments are failing us when it comes to dealing with global warming. Instead of doing their very best at combating pollution and really working at green alternatives for energy they are doing their best with the encouragement of the energy sector to discredit world-renown scientists who are trying to warn us about the seriousness of global warming.

To make matters worse governments are cutting back on research and analysis that has to do with scientific study of the environment. It should be obvious to us that they are trying to

dry up funding that assists scientists in monitoring the affects of global warming on our land, air and water. The problem is that we have put the foxes in charge of the hen house and they are intent on having their way. We should be more aware and consequently upset at the many ways that government and industry have been and are currently working hard to make us believe that there is no such thing as global warming and that our polluting industries have little to do with climate change.

My people the Cree of James Bay have lived on the land since the dawn of time and I trust the voice of the Elders when they tell me that their world is changing alarmingly fast and that the weather patterns are causing great change that is most evident in the affects on the wildlife. It is an ancient cultural belief of my people that if you do not respect Mother Earth bad things will happen. I think that since the beginning of the industrial revolution we have been disrespecting Mother Earth and spewing millions of tons of pollution into the air and water.

It seemed that at one point we all were interested in the environment and conservation but that concern has been beaten back and discourage by millions of dollars spent by big business to lobby governments and discredit good science. When it comes to thinking for ourselves on this issue we should be ready to return to a time when we put our trust in environmentalists, conservationists, prominent scientists and those who care for the land.

We must give our environmentalists and conservationists and scientists the respect they deserve for working under great oppression and pressure while trying help us come up with ways to deal with global warming. We must change our way of thinking and realize that if we don't, then our future generations will have to live with the impact of global warming.

The Elders are worried about what will happen if we don't and it isn't pretty. More and larger forest fires are just one of the symptoms.

CLASSIFIEDS

CONGRATULATIONS

We would like to say congratulations to Lylie Poucachiche & William Chewanish on their first killings of goose, both on May 9th, 2012. We're so proud of you both and love you lots! From Mom Shirley, James & your brother Thomas!

HOLIDAY GREETINGS

We want to wish a happy Father's Day to our dad Mario Whiskeychan on June 17th and also happy Grandfather's Day to our joomshooms Ernest Jolly and Joey Whiskeychan. We also want to wish our joomshoom Joey a happy birthday on June 17th. We all love you! Have a great day! From Marcus, Marisa, Mya, Kateleen, Malachi and Marsha from WASK

EVENTS / RESOURCES

Art Workshops for Youth: If you are between the ages of 15 and 29 you are invited to develop your creativity in weekly stone carving workshops being conducted at the Inter-Tribal Youth Centre located at 2001 boul. St. Laurent corner Ontario street (downstairs in the building of the Native Friendship Centre of Montreal). Workshops are every Thursday from 3pm to 6pm. For further information call 514-499-1854. Need a tutor? The Homework Help Program offers free one-on-one tutoring to Aboriginal

youth. The program will match the needs of the Aboriginal youth to McGill students that have knowledge in a particular school subject. To sign up your child send an e-mail to mcgillhome-workhelp@gmail.com and let them know what grade your child is in and what subjects they need help with. The tutoring sessions will be held at the Inter-Tribal Youth Centre located downstairs at the Native Friendship Centre at 2001 St. Laurent Boulevard, corner Ontario street, between 4pm and 5:30pm on every Monday afternoon beginning in March 2012.

IN MISTISSINI: Free Resist-A-Ball classes for youth between ages 10 and 17 years. 4pm to 5pm on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at the Complex. Call 418-923-3248 ext. 224 for more information.

PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENTS

Where to get help: bilingual, anonymous, confidential and free phone services, 24 hours a day 7 days a week.

Kid's Help Phone Line: 1-800-668-6868 (www.kidshelpphone.ca)

Youth Helpline: 1-800-263-2266 (www.teljeunes.com)

Parents' Helpline: 1-800-361-5085 (www.parenthelpline.ca)

Missing Children's Network: They'll help you find kids who have run away or disappeared. 514-843-4333 (www.enfant-retourquebec.ca)

Drug Addiction help and reference: 1-800-265-2626 (www.drogue-aiderreference.qc.ca)

Gambling Addiction help and reference: 1-800-265-2626 (www.info-reference.qc.ca)

S.O.S. Conjugal Violence: 1-800-363-9010 (www.sosviolenceconjugale.com)

Health and Sexuality Resources Center: 1-888-855-7432 (Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm) (www.criss.org)

Gay Helpline: 1-888-505-1010 (Monday to Friday, 8 am to 3 am and Saturday-Sunday, 11 am to 3 am)

The Native Women's Shelter of Montreal: 1-866-403-4688 (www.nwsm.info)

Suicide Action Québec: 1-866-277-3553 (www.suicide-quebec.net/)

Residential School Survivors: A 24 hour toll-free crisis line is available to provide immediate emotional assistance and can be reached 24-hours a day, seven days a week: 1-866-925-4419. Other support services and information for survivors is available on the AFN website at: www.afn.ca/residentialschools/resources



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Wachiya!

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Birthdays, Anniversaries, Personal Sales and Personal messages are FREE if you live in Cree territory.*

Our magazine is published every two weeks... so think ahead!

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By fax: 514-278-9914

By mail: 4529 Clark, suite 403
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For more information call: 514-272-3077

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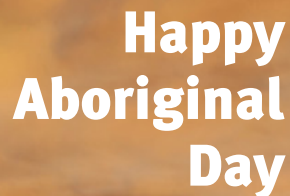


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The Niskamoon Corporation Board of Directors and staff wish everyone a wonderful Aboriginal Day celebration.

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